IN THE CLAIMS:

1. ·   (Cancelled)

2.   (Currently Amended) A method for detecting the maximum quantity of possible positions of an exchangeable nosepiece or slide in a microscope system comprising the steps of:

starting the nosepiece or the slide from an initial position which corresponds to a first position, :

adjusting the nosepiece or the slide to a the maximum position by rotating the nosepiece back by one position;

comparing this maximum position to a position registered in a memory; and

storing the results of the comparison.